

## New York Tribune

First to Last—The Truth—News—Editorials—Advertisements

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## Join the Entente!

The Tribune was the first American newspaper to urge an immediate military alliance between the United States and the Entente powers. We have argued that if this country is to fight Germany on the issue of American and neutral rights at sea it ought to take advantage of every circumstance which may help in reducing Germany to that state of physical impotence in which alone there will be any certainty of German reacknowledgment of the sanctity of international safeguards and international law.

We have been criticised for applying common sense to the military situation which will confront us as soon as we come to blows with Germany. Other voices have been raised here in favor of conducting a localized, isolated, imitation war with the Kaiser. The more unlike war we make our war in defence of American rights and principles the better Germany will be satisfied with it.

We are confident that once the United States finds itself engaged in war with Germany it will quickly decide to make war on a rational military plan. We shall make complete common cause with Germany's other enemies, because military considerations will drive us to take that course. We shall do it, although many Americans are averse to doing it, because there will be nothing else in a military sense for us to do.

We are glad to reproduce below the views on this subject of the writer who for two years and a half past has contributed military criticism to "The New York Times." He speaks his mind freely, unhampered by the petty commitments of politics. He said in his column last Sunday:

Another point for consideration is that we cannot enter the war alone. Whether we like it or whether we do not, if we declare war on Germany or she on us, we become one of the Allies. To conduct the war all by ourselves, without regard to the general plan of the Entente, ignoring them completely, would be the safest and surest method of suicide. Moreover, being at war with Germany, we cannot sit idly by and watch others do our fighting while we continue to market our foodstuffs and war materials. The situation created will be, it must be admitted, anomalous. We shall not be at one with the aspirations of the various powers of the Entente. That would be meddling in the affairs of Europe to an extent which our foreign policy does not permit. But, nevertheless, the mere fact of declaration of war at once imposes upon the people of the United States the duty of seeing that Germany is defeated. If we do not want to accomplish that we shall not go to war.

Our reason for seeing Germany defeated will be that we have imposed upon ourselves the duty of notifying not Germany alone, but the world, that no nation is great enough, even though she may hypnotize herself into a completely unnormal condition, to cast aside all law, all agreements and disrupt the entire fabric of international law in which we are vitally concerned with the other nations of the world, without incurring our displeasure and facing the possibility of a rupture of friendly relations. Our fight will be a fight not for our right alone, but for the right of the world as interpreted in the broader light of humanity. If, then, we take the step, there cannot, in reason, be any backing out until the curtain is drawn on the final act of the great tragedy. We must, then, be one of the present Allies and play our part in conformity with their military plans.

We do not know whether "The Times" would be willing to admit into its editorial columns so courageous and striking a statement of true American policy in the event of war with Germany. Such a statement will be unpalatable to many persons in Washington. But it is inexorably logical. Its logic is the logic of war. And it will prevail when war comes, all academic hesitations and reluctances to the contrary notwithstanding.

## Reforming the Back Fence

At first glance the endeavor to have property owners, especially in congested districts, substitute modern open iron fences for the old high board fences, which the tenement house committee of the Charity Organization Society is making seems more like a clean-up movement than tenement house reform. Fortunately, it is both, and it has merit on both counts. This Tenement House Commissioner Murphy has promptly recognized, and the fire and safety authorities of Philadelphia, where a similar campaign is being conducted, approve it heartily.

The high board fence keeps light and air out of back yards. It seems to have an unholy affinity for rubbish, which frequently collects at its base in amazing quantity. This constitutes a fire hazard. The police also believe that the maze of back yard fences renders easier and safer the work of thieves. Open metal fences, on the other hand, would let in light and

air. The committee believes they would discourage the accumulation of rubbish in old corners of the yard and would encourage the development of grass plots and flower beds in yards now utterly strange to such beauties.

Since the cost of a metal fence is little more than that of a board fence, and its maintenance cost is much less, the idea ought to appeal to property owners. As the committee asks, "When it is so inexpensive to be a public benefactor, why not be one?"

## In the History Class

"The World" tries to persuade us that we don't know American history because we said that Lincoln involved the country in war after the attack on Fort Sumter. Our neighbor holds that Lincoln did nothing to bring about a state of war. But Lincoln certainly made war a certainty when he called out 75,000 volunteers to restore the sovereignty of the Union. There would have been no war—certainly not in 1861—if he had overlooked the attack on Sumter and had started in on a two years' diplomatic correspondence with the Confederate authorities with the purpose of dissuading them from making further attacks of the same nature.

Lincoln accepted war when cause for war was given him. It was an act of will and resolution on his part. He had the other choice—that of avoiding war and paying the price of avoidance. War can't be forced on a President who is "too proud to fight." We fear that "The World" has not read American history since 1914 with critical attention.

## No Joke

It has been the habit of corporations under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commissions to obey some orders issued by those bodies, but to pretend compliance with others, only to ignore them practically, or to fight them in the courts. A good part of the public has fallen into the notion that the commissions are a joke. That opinion on the part of public and corporations ought to be revised in the light of recent events in Brooklyn, where the superintendent of transportation of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company has been prosecuted by the District Attorney for failure to obey an order of the local commission, has been convicted by a jury and duly sentenced. It is probably the first time a corporation official has been convicted of crime under the penalty clauses in the law in any state having a public utilities regulation statute.

The law in this state has not all the teeth it might have, for court interpretations have gone against some clauses which its drafters believed would strengthen the hands of the commissions. But this case is evidence that where officialdom has the will to compel obedience the orders of the commissions for the benefit of the public need not be mere empty words. What must be hoped for in many more cases is a persistent determination to compel obedience, if necessary, by resort to criminal prosecution of those responsible for ignoring remedial orders. If the commissions furnish that, and the prosecutors cooperate with them, the law will be serving its full purpose, and the skeptical public and cynical corporation managers will lose the idea that the commissions are a joke.

## 'Illimitable Patience'

In an improving homily on Lincoln's Birthday "The Evening Post" solemnly adjured the thoughtful people of this peaceful and long-suffering land "to pray that a double portion of his illimitable patience may be given to them and their rulers." Surely our rulers are not so quick tempered that they must turn to an imperfect peacemaker as an example. The double portion required of them in these days was the actual possession of Fletcher's hero, the inimitable Monsieur Lapet, architect of all modern pacifists. Hear him reason on the rewards of illimitable patience:

I have been ruminating with myself. What honor a man loses by a kick. Why, what's a kick? For they that stand upon their honor most. When they conceive there is no honor lost—As, by a table I have invented. For that purpose alone, shall appear plainly. Which shows the vanity of all blows at large. And with what ease they may be took on all sides. Numbering but twice over the letters PA-TIENCE. From PA to CE—I doubt not but in small time. To see a dissolution of all bloodshed. If the Reformed Kick do but once get up.

If we are not yet hardened by custom, let us by all means pray for the spirit not of Lincoln, but of Monsieur Lapet, the model of patient sufferers in a good cause.

## 'Danger Zones'

In a dispatch to "The New York Times" Mr. O. K. Davis, who has had abundant opportunity to sound the sentiment of influential men in Berlin, sums up their arguments for the new Sperrgebiete, or blocked zones, as follows:

One nation has just as good right to proclaim a war zone in the open sea as the other. England began by laying a war zone in the North Sea, they say. Now Germany merely does the same thing in other waters. When the British Admiralty first gave warning of the dangers to be encountered in the North Sea it was not without providing for the safety of neutral shipping. Indeed, had it not been for the warnings given by British cruisers neutral merchant vessels would already have been destroyed by the mines scattered indiscriminately in the open sea by the Germans. It was to guard against the growth of this manifest peril and to insure the safety of peaceful commerce on the high seas that the prohibited area was established.

Possibly, however, the Germans are thinking of the area proclaimed two weeks ago and apparently hampered

ing trade with the neutral ports of Holland and Denmark. On this point the supposed sufferers are the best judges. The "Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant" thinks "Great Britain has, of course, a perfect right to counteract the activity of German submarines, and if she succeeds neutrals will also have reason for satisfaction." The "Telegraaf," of Amsterdam, likewise observes that, whatever the Germans may pretend, there is no question of blockading neutral ports, and adds:

When we see that the German government has in fact declared the seas of the entire world "a danger zone," and that it assumes the right of torpedoing all vessels, enemy or neutral, which are en route to or returning from an Allied harbor, this new measure seems the least that the British Admiralty could take, and we are only surprised that such a measure was not decided upon long ago.

The Germans may not be able to distinguish between British precautions and German aggressions, but it is a matter that offers no difficulty to Germany's potential victims.

## Dr. Butler's Simple Solution

Every friend of Columbia will be delighted to have President Butler's ridiculously simple exoneration of the university in the matter of Count Ilya Tolstoy's reported rejection from the university's lecture halls. Said he in some general advice to alumni relating to nothing in particular:

I want to give you a word of warning. Columbia University suffers a good deal from time to time from attacks of what may be called "inflammatory journalism." The only counsel I have to give you is never to believe anything you read in the newspapers about Columbia unless you have personally seen it, and then believe only half of it.

The general public, having only the word of "inflammatory journalism" for the word of Count Tolstoy, will, of course, be glad to accept Dr. Butler's direction and refuse to believe a word of what has been printed concerning it. The count's Moscow lecture was not boycotted on Morningside. It was, in fact, actually delivered on the Columbia campus. No right of free speech was interfered with by anybody. No Columbia professor blundered and Columbia University was not made a fool of. Professor John Dewey, who characterized the supposed attack as "regrettable," will, of course, retract; the International Club of Columbia will at once call off its meeting of protest.

To forestall criticism, we conclude with a frank confession that, upon Mr. Butler's own theory, we have no right whatever to believe that he said a word of his speech, quoted as it is from the journals of New York. Perhaps he didn't. For it seems to us altogether too much like the kind of nonsense that really inflammatory journals would place in the mouth of a college president whom they wished to make ridiculous.

## Undermining the Federal Building

Grief will be restrained and intermittent over the widening cracks in the Federal Building. If the new subway could actually achieve the complete undoing of that Early General Grant monstrosity it would be pardoned all its sins. Meantime, the opportunity of Congress widens with the cracks. Real money will be needed to save the old structure if it is to be saved. Why not make the long hoped for move, build such modern structures as are needed and raze the old, disintegrating mausoleum to the ground?

The land in question belongs to the city in point of fact. The Federal government would be performing only a graceful duty if it withdrew its worst of all possible public buildings and restored our City Hall Park to its proper size and dignity. The gain to the City Hall, our best public monument surviving from the past, would be immeasurable. More power to the subway excavators and more light to Congress.

## Judicial Asides

(Guard, in The Philadelphia Ledger)

I hate to rob anybody of a compliment, even one mistakenly interpreted, but here goes.

Judge John M. Patterson occupied the bench at the recent Lyceum Institute trial of John Jasper for the murder of Edwin Drood. When closing the case the handsome judge pleaded the participants in the trial very much by saying:

"I learned some interesting things to-night which I never knew before."

But Judge Patterson's mind dwelt on quite another theme than that of the Jewish "Seder," which he sat a copy of the Jewish "Seder," Tassover service, which he read through for the first time and found most absorbing.

Which recalls an incident I witnessed in the United States Court room during the Standard Oil case arguments. Justice John Harlan sent a note to one of the other justices on the bench.

I happened to be sitting immediately behind Attorney General Wickham, and when he sat down after closing the government's case a Chicago newspaper correspondent asked him if Justice Harlan's note meant anything.

"Nothing," replied Mr. Wickham, "except that he was asking for a chew of tobacco."

## French Colonial Possessions

(From The Manchester Guardian)

We appreciate too little the great magnitude of the French colonial possessions. French Indo-China alone has an area of over a quarter of a million square miles and a population of over 17,000,000, of which about 25,000 are Europeans, excluding military. In face of heavy difficulties the French have effected great improvements, trade has been organized, and in some parts (Lancashire) is extending. And in recent years the rubber industry has been developed, more particularly in Annam and in Cochinchina. The French colonial possessions altogether (including Algeria and Tunisia) have an area of about four million square miles, with a population of well over forty millions.

## 'Freedom of the Sea!'

(American Version)

St. Louis and St. Paul Will Be Held Here—News paper headline.

"Oh, father! May I put out to sea?"

"Oh, yes, my darling daughter! Just tie your boat at the nearest pier. And—don't go near the water!"

HUGH WALLACE

## TOO PROUD TO PREPARE

## Had We Been Properly Armed Germany Would Not Have Attacked Us

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Will you allow me once more to express my gratification in reading the editorials in your paper of the last two days and also the letters which have appeared on your editorial page respecting the war and Germany?

In our war, with Spain we were in conflict with the Spanish government, and our people to their credit, held no grudge against such Spaniards as were in the United States, and greeted Admiral Cervera, after the loss of his fleet, so cordially as to cause him vast astonishment. I hope and believe that similar cordial relations should be maintained as regards not only citizens of German extraction, but all Germans who are found with us if war should result, excepting only the comparatively small body of German spies who are undoubtedly among us and who take the risks imposed by their calling.

The time ought to be long gone by when any man should be hated because of his race, particularly in view of the fact that none of us can take credit to ourselves for our racial descent.

We are now enjoined to forget all differences and to "get behind" the President. No doubt as good citizens we are under obligation to back him up, but there are certain things of which we cannot entirely forget and which do not add to our comfort.

We have seen two and one-half years of war, and therefore two years and a half of opportunity for preparedness, practically wasted. We know that we have to depend upon a Congress sufficiently short-sighted to have allowed all of this time to elapse without practical action, a Congress responsible for the Hay army bill, under which the Mexican fiasco has occurred, a law which wasted large sums of public money and resulted in the sending to the front of many men who should only have been drafted at the last extremity, men whose positions and families made it highly inexpedient for them to go. Congress has sat idle for two and one-half years, and it is proposed which would have prevented the damaging of the fleetonic ships lying in New York and other harbors.

A headline in your paper of yesterday says "United States Starts Work on New Fort to Guard New York," to which might have been added "two and one-half years late." Another heading is, "United States Army Chiefs Figure on Force of a Million Men." It is not the fault of the army chiefs that two and one-half years behind the time they are "figuring on an army."

We can not and should not forget that the President on whom we must rely scornfully spoke two years ago of the New York people as becoming "nervous," nor that a certain prominent Congressman advised his fellows to vote for a certain recent tax bill on the ground that their constituents would have to pay no part of it, but that it would fall mainly upon the New Yorkers, who had been "hollering" for preparedness.

We do not forget and should not forget that the United States has to thank the Aero Club of America and the National Security League for such small degree of preparedness as has been attained. It is only within a day or two that a bill was introduced into Congress authorizing the seizure by the army and navy of railroad facilities in case of emergency, although this power should have been granted years ago.

It is gratifying to see the patriotism displayed by the private citizens as opportunity has within the last few days enabled it to be shown.

Fortunately, under the protection of the English fleet we shall have an opportunity in some degree to make up for lost time, though our position will never be as good as if Congress and the President had done their duty two years ago. Had we been armed, as we might have been, the vast probability is that Germany would have affronted us, and the conditions in Belgium would have been better, and some limit might have been set to the Armenian

It is not infrequently happens that the man who is too proud to fight has to fight, while the individual who seeks peace by preference, but of whom it is absolutely certain that he will make a fierce and dangerous opponent, remains unmolested.

CHARLES E. MANIERE.  
New York, Feb. 10, 1917.

## Lost Opportunities

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I rejoice that we have the opportunity of reading the clean-cut, courageous articles you are publishing in The Tribune upon the great war, with particular reference to the issues most intimately concerning this nation. You have done much to strip the veil of meaningless "words" from the various communications which have passed between the governments, revealing to the man in the street the naked facts.

What opportunities this government has let slip to distinguish itself, for all time! Blessed as no nation has ever been blessed, favored at the very hands of the Almighty with truly enormous resources, her history with priceless possession, with wars waged for inalienable rights, for freedom on land and sea, for the oppressed and distressed; the one great neutral, yet, with such antecedents, such a history, such resources, such professions of profound affection for "humanity," silent in the face of Belgium's wrongs, passive in the presence of the Lusitania's murdered Americans!

F. R. W.  
Hill, N. Y., Feb. 10, 1917.

## The Spirit of Bryan

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A few days ago Mr. Bryan was quoted in The Tribune as saying: "If a drunken chauffeur were to drive up on a sidewalk where he had no right to go, I would step aside and talk to him when he became sober, instead of letting him discuss the matter afterward with my widow." This man, who bore the title of colonel in the army of the United States, would "step aside" and allow a "drunken chauffeur" to injure and kill helpless women and children peacefully and lawfully walking upon a sidewalk, instead of jumping into the car and choking the drunken brute to helplessness. Thank God, our gallant policemen and heroic firemen are not filled with the Bryan spirit!

JOHN MORGAN.  
Brooklyn, Feb. 12, 1917.

## A Residence for Mr. Bryan

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: During the Civil War, certain blatant sympathizers with the South were accommodated by the government with quarters in Fort Lafayette. Fort Lafayette is still in New York Harbor. Would it not just now be a desirable place of residence for William Jennings Bryan?

WILLIAM HALE HERRICK.  
New York, Feb. 12, 1917.

## A PERIL WITHIN OUR BORDERS

## By NAUTICUS

(A Well Known Naval Expert)

Even to the casual reader of the daily press it must be evident that there is something approaching very near to a bitter feud between the Hon. Josephus Daniels and the private shipbuilding firms of the country. It is equally evident that the Secretary of the Navy is thoroughly convinced that the gentlemen who, by virtue of their technical and administrative ability, have risen to the position of presidents of these various shipbuilding firms, are actuated in their dealings with the navy by motives that are utterly selfish and sinister, and unrelieved by so much as a glimmer of that flaming patriotism, of which he himself is never so conspicuous an example as when he is engaged in exposing the plots and subterfuges of "organized capital" and "predatory wealth."

Now, Mr. Josephus Daniels, private citizen, and the Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, are two very different entities—should be. If Mr. Daniels, private citizen, has decided opinions and deep seated prejudices on the subject of wealth and property and the inability of a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, well and good. But when Mr. Daniels, private citizen, becomes the head of a great government department, if he has any sense of the dignity and responsibilities of his high office, he will leave his private prejudices and predilections behind him, or at least remove them from his head and heart and put them in his pocket. Otherwise, he will not only be hindered in the effective discharge of his duties, but he may readily become a very serious peril to the interests of the country at large.

And this is the condition which Mr. Daniels' prejudice against capital is rapidly bringing about, particularly in the important matter of building up the naval defenses of the country—as we shall now proceed to show.

The greatest potential naval asset of any maritime country is its private shipbuilding yards; and this is particularly true in the case of a country such as the United States which is endeavoring, by a supreme shipbuilding effort, to make good the neglect of a long period of years. The private yards' facilities are supplemented by those of the government yards; but in every case the government yards constitute only a small proportion of the nation's total equipment for the construction of warships, and particularly of the great battleships and battle-cruisers, which form the first fighting line upon which the safety of a country depends.

Also, be it carefully noted, there is in every country but our own the closest cooperation between the government and the private shipbuilders, who are encouraged to lay down building ways and extend their shop

facilities, on the understanding that the greater part of each year's naval programme will be assigned to them at mutually adjusted prices, and on terms that will insure to them a reasonable margin of profit.

Furthermore, and this is equally important, there is a similar cooperation between the technical staffs (naval constructors and engineers) of the Navy Department and those of the shipbuilding firms; and although the designs for the new ships are drawn up by the government, the technical staffs of the private firms are encouraged to submit alternative designs and suggestions of their own, so that the ultimate result may embody the combined technical knowledge and industrial skill of the whole nation.

Compare, if you please, this harmonious and highly organized effort with the state of chaos which obtains, at this very hour, in the relations between our Navy Department and the shipbuilding interests of the country. It is safe to say that if the British Admiralty had exhibited toward the shipbuilding companies the attitude of glaring hostility which has been so glaringly conspicuous in the Secretary of the Navy, the great fleet which to-day is the mainstay of the Allied cause would never have been built, the streets of London would, long ago, have echoed to the tramp of the Kaiser's victorious legions.

As between the Secretary and the gentlemen whom he is abusing so roundly, we are free to confess that a study of the facts of the controversy regarding the construction of the big battle-cruisers (to take an example) leaves us with the impression that the shipbuilders are wretched to do the square thing by the country and that Mr. Daniels believes that such an attitude on their part is a mere technical impossibility. If the shipbuilders' point to the ever-rising cost of material and labor and name a price for these battle-cruisers that will insure to themselves a reasonable profit, Mr. Daniels first rushes into print with the statement that they are charging exorbitant prices, and then reverses himself by going to Congress with a request for an appropriation to cover the shipbuilders' figures. If the shipbuilders suggest that the use of the electric drive in ships of enormous horsepower, each of 180,000, is a grave experiment, and suggest the use of another system that has undergone the test of widely extended service, they are told to mind their own business, and the country is assured that these men are mere obstructionists, holding up naval construction in the hour of national danger.

For our part we refuse to subscribe to that clause in Mr. Daniels' articles of faith which seems to assume that when a private shipbuilder happens to have his shipbuilding yard at Hamburg or on the Clyde he is an honorable and patriotic citizen, but when his yard is in Massachusetts, New Jersey or Virginia he is, of necessity, altogether suspect.

## "THE WAVE OF BLOOD LUST"

## Militarist Hysteria as Seen by a Pacifist—Business Methods in a World Crisis

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The wave of blood lust let loose of late, especially in the daily press, has moved me to thus take your time.

Have war profits completely turned the heads of our so-called leading citizens and the papers which they control? I see no other reason for the militarist hysteria with which we find ourselves surrounded.

Is not the most sensible course that of going to the last limit of patience and endurance to prevent hostilities and then go further?

To use the argument unanswerable, "What would modern business methods indicate?" Let us develop the idea.

It cannot be gainsaid that these methods require the utmost as to strict correlation between the means and the end. In other words, the test is: "Does it work?"

Apply this to war. Does it work? As I understand it, the crisis facing us now is owing to our proper demands that American non-combatant lives be safeguarded on the seas.

Let us declare war. Let us conquer the enemy. And let the readers of this paper be safe from harm? Are they? Do they possess any greater degree of safety than before the war? I think that the history of nations to date would indicate that they are not. If the enemy is crushed, will it not rise again with festering memories and prepare to "get even"? History answers: "Yes."

Has war accomplished its purpose? At the most we get a guarantee, written on "a scrap of paper."

"Is it good business?" I leave the readers (if this passes the censor) to answer and to call to vision the dead numbers inconceivable—the millions of dollars' worth of mispent labor.

In God's name, then, let us remain cool, and if there is another way out let us take it and refuse to be stamped by the false patriotism of those who may well profit from the nation's travail.

And in this connection, permit me to sing highest praises for Henry Ford, who offers his all to our government without profit.

If all munition makers should do likewise there would be less loud cries for the blood of another people. And it is the people who supply that blood, and not the "government" upon which war is declared.

So let us aid our President in his endeavor to keep peace and honor. OSWALD.  
Plainfield, N. J., Feb. 12, 1917.

## Admiration for Hyphenates

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In contrast with the "Not-all" American, it would seem the Hyphenate suffers mightily.

The latter while rooting for their favorites never beg of us ought to be observed neutrality. While the "Not-all" American method contends to gain our Nations alliance to a foreign cause, without reckoning the consequences of ripping our Ship of State from its moorings and rushing it unprepared into the maelstrom of European War.

This gleeful willingness to sacrifice our country upon the Altar of Hate and Prejudice is of itself sufficient evidence that many minds are twisted out of all semblance of rational thought.

Let us hope that our Helmsman and his council will steer a straight course, under but one flag—the revered Stars and Stripes of the U. S. A. ALAMERICAN.  
New York, Feb. 12, 1917.

## Patriotic Support of the President

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Replying to H. G. in this morning's Tribune—if I may—I should think that "just facts" not only "might" but would "do"; that Mr. Wilson's admirers (why admirers—necessarily?) could desire nothing more; and that those who do not admire him (to use again H. G.'s term for Mr. Wilson's detractors) will certainly not be changed by words—though their attitude might be modified by straight thinking.

Being human, through no fault of his own, no doubt the President makes mistakes. Most of us do. But having been made President by the majority of a democratic, not to say patriotic, thing to do to consistently back him up, excluding both undue praise and unjust criticism? ANNE HARTLEY.  
Summit, N. J., Feb. 12, 1917.

## Hence Let Us Have a Sightseeing Tower Atop the Cathedral

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The new Cathedral of St. John the Divine should have one great tower instead of four smaller ones for the following reason: Such a tower, looming up, would be for all time the highest point in the greater city, and the extraordinary advantage of that fact should be utilized to the full. From that vantage could be seen one of the most glorious outlooks in the world.

In full view would be all the greater city, the harbor, the Sound, far up the Hudson, long vistas of Westchester County, New Jersey and Long Island. It would be one of the main objectives in New York of tourists from all parts of the country and from all parts of the world.

The architectural problem involved would doubtless be easily solved by the architect, Mr. Cram. All that would be necessary would be a series of openings or a balcony surrounding the tower at the highest point in harmony with the design, and a system of elevators.

When one remembers that the Woolworth Tower has now an average of one hundred and seventy thousand visitors a year, three-quarters of whom pay for the privilege, one can have an idea of the enormous revenue that could be derived from this infinitely greater opportunity to see the mighty city. That revenue could be applied to the support of a great hospital or to other charities of broad appeal.

This is not a cathedral age. Religious impulse is not the emphasis on social service and foreign missions rather than on cathedral building. Few of its enthusiasts on the cathedral either as a religious aspiration or a religious necessity.

To equip the tower for the purpose mentioned would render a genuine public service and give a big impulse toward finishing the work. JOHN A. WADE.  
New York, Feb. 11, 1917.

## "Do You Want to Go to War?"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: May I voice a protest which has arisen from many students who have received the card sent out by the "Collegiate Anti-Militarism League" to the members of Columbia University for the avowed purpose of influencing public opinion? The cause for complaining is the wording of the question numbered 1, which reads: "Do you want to go to war to uphold the right of individual Americans to enter the war zone?" It is apparent on the face of it that an insidious appeal is being made to the personal feelings of students on the pretence of contributing to the formation of public opinion on a national question.

Is it likely that any great number of women students, greeted by the phrase, "Do you want to go to war?" will answer in the affirmative, even though they believe that the United States should stand behind the President in this crisis? No one "wants to go to war" for the lust of the fighting, but when our President has calmly entered into a situation which makes war all but inevitable if we are to continue to be heard at the council table of the nations, then "Do you want to go to war?" to uphold the President's sake; it is a question of loyalty or treason.

It were well that the country let the President and Congress know whether to wave a white flag or a red, white and blue one, but once the government has spoken, especially when it has taken two years to speak, it is idle for "Anti-Militarism Leagues" to conduct ambiguous, double-meaning questionnaires. HAROLD A. LARRABEE.  
New York, Feb. 13, 1917.

## An Appeal to Business Women

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wonder if the thousands of women in this city whose training and daily work enable them to write letters with great facility know how many hundreds of men under the black shadow of punishment in our great prisons are asking for friendly letters to mitigate their loneliness and inspire them to renewed efforts in the uphill climb to true manhood. A self-addressed envelope sent to Dr. H. Stokes, 1207 G Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., will open the way to any who is willing to write such letters.

A PRISON CORRESPONDENT.  
New York,